

# FRS NEWSLETTER

Volume 3- Issue # 22- June 1999

*Dear FRS-Holland Friend!*

Welcome in the final FRS Newsletter Summer edition in this millennium. Once again a carefully selected number of newswires from sea to satellite packed within 6 pages. Regularly people write not to expect so much news in this small publication. We consider this as a compliment..

Quite some news relating to offshore radio but also much interesting SW news. Made in Holland and News from around the World. Enjoy it! 73s,

Peter W.

## FRS NEWSCORNER

### FRS, Holland Activities

1999 has been rather disappointing up till now. Looking at the broadcasting part of the story, we have only been on air in January. In fact we informed already in March about the situation, not too much can be added. Remember the sentence in the previous edition: "With a little luck (...) FRSH is on the air SW 21st". Well, it must be obvious we didn't have that little luck. But...FRS-Holland wouldn't be FRS-Holland if we would not be able to return sometime. We don't regard it as a problem that we aren't on air at a monthly basis. Reasons are lack of time but also (and that's a very serious reason) lack of response. If we would have 50 letters each broadcast, things would be much easier. Reality is that we prefer seriously preparing a number of broadcasts hoping that listeners will appreciate our different programme quality. Let's not forget that the broadcast of the SWF is not a guarantee for a fast answer. We discussed things with Barry Shephard. Many of our fast-acting listeners from the late 'Nachtstad 803' may be listening from time to time but they are getting older, are married, have a family and thus more spent less time on writing letters. The new generation has possibly more choice in hobbies compared with say 15 to 20 years ago. German listeners do write in quite often, are loyal etc. But there are so many reasons that one must focus his attention at too many different stations. The lack of support from for instance the UK - a main country where is comes to SWF free radio - is very disappointing, even outrageous. Even when putting out strong signals into the UK, only very little persons take the trouble to write. Perhaps some listeners are pulling out because of lack of quality Sunday mornings. The situation looks perhaps ok to many of you because of a great number of members being active. But don't let the situation by appearances... FRSH is also closed down, many OFs complain about the situation. What about BR? It's time to set things right telling the asked truth. SW free radio has always had a special position within European radio in the first place because of entertaining programmes. Let's hope we can keep it this way.

*FRS-Holland Future Activities*

FRS-Holland is already looking to the autumn when we plan a marathon broadcast, possibly the final FRS-Holland in this millennium and at the same time the station's 19th birthday. More info follows in September as well as via our website: <<http://listen.to/frh>>. Perhaps we do something special in August commemorating the 25th birthday of the Treaty of Strasbourg. During the Summer period we will be irregularly listing on 48 and perhaps 26 or 19 more during night from Saturdays to Sundays.

### New Jingles

Yes, we are working very hard to complete a bandwidth set of jingles. It's called the millennium set. Earlier this month all people listed in our SW internet address book received the following message! Hi there, it has been a little while since you have heard from us. Well, it's vacation time overhere, but that doesn't mean that there was anything going on behind the scene... Peter Verbruggen has almost finished the first part of our jungle CD > project, that's the re-invention of all our jingles. You can imagine that there were loads of jingles made since 1980 in different styles and with different tochaques. (and in various quality...) > When he's finished, he may go on holiday and the stuff goes to Josje ter Zoo for editing, editing, re-mixing, sorting and burning on a CD. (Josje is back from holiday...) > Looks like the CD will be released after the summer (that's the Dutch summer) around the end of August. Details about come, will follow. First we have a small contest: He/she who comes up with a suitable name or statement for the history of 19 years of FRSH jingles gets a free copy! Start thinking and send your great idea's to: < FRSH@iname.com > or < actor.verbruggen@tun.nl >

*Important*

Due to circumstances the <pete.verbeke@tiscali.nl> e-mail address will be changed. Those of you who's Email addresses are stored in our addressbook will be automatically informed. The new Email will also be announced in upcoming broadcasts and in the September edition of this Newsletter. Remember you can contact us via <frsh@iname.com>.

## THE SW FREE RADIO SCENE

## General

This SW section cover the period Mid-March- June 20th 1999. Since #21 came out, conditions on 48 & 61 meters have been deteriorating. Not a real surprise, the months of May, June and July are each year poor or even worse than that. This is in contrast with 76 metres where propagation is improving towards the Summer period. What made the news? One of the highlights in the past month was the Easter weekend with a great number of stations being active on the various SW bands. Remarkable was (OJ89)88 with broadcasts from a ship on the Northeast on 62 MHz, (GK)90 on 60 MHz, various stations on 76 MHz, (YU)91 on 77 MHz, Eastern 7374, 7440 Radio Amazonas, Radio Pando, 7415 Lamer, 7464 Scottish WMR, 7485 Boedelsteden. The raid on German Radio Nordsee came as a complete surprise remaining the German stations that the Bundespost is not fallen asleep. The great number of stations makes it impossible to list all of them. We try to provide the most important news items implying that some stations -even some very active ones - are not listed in this edition simply because we cannot supply you with interesting news. Only loggings is not enough! Some of the very active stations are: Radio All Int., RFL, Farmers, FSW, Radio Blue Star, LHW (41506319), TAR, Dr. Tim, Kralje Bratstvo, UK Radio, Zeeuw, IRL, SWS, and many others. There are longer days, more stations, and the SW band is expected to be active during normal weekdays. Especially on Wed, Thurs & Fri several stations have been monitored in May/Jun. The latest edition (#19) of Swedish Pirate Connection is out. It took a long time but at always it's a very interesting edition with news & features including Nordzee's raid, the Farmers, Terevalds and Tonnie, Finnish pirate Radio, Noordzee FM, Radio 10 Gold etc. For more info contact Stefan Prietz at P.O.Box 4580, 20320 Malmö, Sweden or via Email:- [Prieze@PiratsPageAll.com](mailto:Prieze@PiratsPageAll.com) or "VoiceFromRadio-RadioOnline-Magazin" contains new reports covering the German Free Radio scene. Visit [members.sco.com/vogelrid/](http://members.sco.com/vogelrid/). Do not forget that the German OPs will attend this meeting with a August trip. Several SW free radio OPs will attend this steadily.

**RADIO ACTION-HEIDEROOSJE** was active Sat June 12th on 6261 kHz. Address P.O. Box 20, 7032 ZH in Zeeland.

**RADIO ALFA LIMA INT.** (5) remains a very active (weekly) user of mainly the 48 mb. May 18th RAL was on 6375 and since a few weeks tests on 11480 kHz have been aired. RAL makes use of a 300W tx (the rig is operating on 500W but can provide even more power!) causing quite a number of problems with power supplies etc. A visit to RAL's website is worth while, so check out <[www.liston.ro/alfainternational](http://www.liston.ro/alfainternational)> or Email to: <[alfainternational@freemail.nl](mailto:alfainternational@freemail.nl)>

**RADIO ARMADILLO** put out a 10-hour live marathon broadcast on 5824 and 5835 kHz Saturday 8th May. Calls were received from colleague UK SW OPs such as Radio Orion, Radio Pandora and Subterranean Sounds. Email add is < Mr.Armadillo@usa.net >.

**RADIO RANDONICA** (3) has been very often heard on 6240 kHz in April and May. Sat May 15th. Randonica tested on 11481 test 08 09 UTC. This resulted in a very good signal in Scandinavia. Long skip prevented the station from being heard in Western Europe. In the past week the station was nearly each week early in the morning on 11480 kHz with approx. 100W of power. So far response has been rather low. Website: [www.listen-to-randonica.com](http://www.listen-to-randonica.com)

**BRITAIN'S BETTER MUSIC STATION** state they need your support pointing at the proposed closure of European Music Radio due to lack of letters, Emails and general response. "Are we the next to go?" Gary Stevens writes. "We need your support otherwise we will pull the plug like EMR". Address: 55D Chester Road, London N19 5DF in the UK.

Sun May 30th saw German **RADIO BENELUX** (1) on 5815 kHz making use of a 35W tx. Signal was rather weak. A new QSL-card is available for those sending in correct reports. BNL has also been heard during numerous occasions on 7480 and a number of 76 mb freqs.

**BIG WIZARD/MAGIC SPELL** from the UK returned on SW after a long break. The station mainly operates within 76 metres close to 3947 kHz.  
Email: <wizardbig@hotmail.com>.

Easter Sun April 4th UK-based **RADIO BLACKBEARD** (10) was heard on 6400. In the past this freq was used by RFL and ever since they left this spot on the dial, 6400 has hardly been used by others.

May 9th **RADIO BLACK POWER** tested on 6400 putting out a good signal on the continent. This was one of the few broadcasts taking place on or close 6400 since RFL left this part of the dial.

What Monday May 25th **RADIO BLUE STAR** was heard on 6262/6306. The outlet on the latter freq produced no less than 1000W resulting in a first-class signal. Blue Star was heard during many occasions on 48 & 76 metres in the past months. Add is P.O.Box 1104 in 8001 BC Zwolle, the Netherlands. Email: [bluestar@hmt.nl](mailto:bluestar@hmt.nl).

**RADIO BRIGITTE** was heard a few times on 6907 kHz but also on frequ



within 48 mB. Signal strength is fair to good. Add is P.O.Box 10 in 7594 ZG Baelen.

**RADIO BORDERHUNTER** was heard with poor mod quality on 7465 SW Sun March 21st and 28th. Add is P.O.Box 44 in B-2387 Baarle-Hertog, Belgium.

**German RADIO CITY** (1) is carrying out irregular tests on or close to 3950 kHz during weekdays (evening). June 13th City was on 7428 kHz. There might also be some tests around 21445 kHz in both AM & USB.

April 18th between 10.15 and 11.15 UTC saw German **CLBG** on 6241 with one of its rare shows. Exactly one week later 6245 was in use with another 60 minute broadcast. Add is P.O.Box 540101 in D-47151 Duisburg.

**RADIO COCHINGUAZ** is a popular station from South America. The station operates on frequencies of the 43 mB, 6950 kHz USB is quite popular. For instance: Sat May 29th 23.00 - 24.00 hr & Sun May 30th at 00.00-02.00 programmes were aired. Add is Radio Cochinguaz, Carilla 159, Santiago 14, Chile. RC will confirm only small correct reports; please include 2 IRCs. Correct reports will always be verified.

**RADIO CONTINENTAL** was heard on 6262 SW March 28th and Easter Monday April 5th. March 28th marked the station's debut broadcast. Just before 10.00 UTC RC closed down. Signal strength was fair. The address is: P.O.Box 1353, 8001 BJ Zwolle in the Netherlands.

German station **CRAZY WAVE RADIO** updated its website. Take a look at <http://www.mangid.com/cwr>.

An up-to-date list with **EMAIL ADDRESSES** of pirate stations can be found at <http://www.swradiojournal.net/links.htm>.

**EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO** made its final broadcast for the time being on Sun March 28th. Just like the previous broadcasts this one was on 6210 kHz. Signal quality was fine which cannot be said from the response which was rather disappointing. It is hard to understand why so few people take the trouble to drop a line knowing that E.M.R. put out a good signal and was among the best to be heard on SW. Just before closing down that Sunday it was said that the station would take a long summer break returning in October 1999. Barry Stephens also announced he would be leaving the station, other people would be in control of E.M.R. As a result the Radio Jackie Story is discontinued. A pity because this type of programming proves SW free radio can be real interesting. Since December 1998 many E.M.R. listeners clearly indicated in their letters to P.O.Box 2727 that they very much liked the Radio Jackie Story (see also FRS NWL #21 page 2).

Early June it came as a complete surprise that E.M.R. would not be returning on SW. In other words: March 21st had been the final broadcast! This was not a rumour, it was 100% true. The current state of affairs is that E.M.R. may continue with one or two broadcasts a year. That's a disgraceful good news! Late June FRS-Holland was informed that EMR will give it one more try. The next show is scheduled to be aired no sooner than November of this year. EMR will continue with a Swedish, German, French and English service. The same producers (Jean-Claude Georges, Mike Anderson, John Sandy, Peter Verbruggen) will be responsible for EMR's output. One very experienced English new presenter will join the line-up. A number of new jingles will be introduced later this year. EMR hopes that response is so encouraging that the station will continue in the new millennium. So it's up to you, the listener! Address is P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands. By the end of the year the station will certainly have a new and definitive email address!

**RADIO EUROPA INTERNATIONAL** was heard via the facilities of Radio Blue Star April 4th (6242 & 6307 kHz). No address was mentioned in the Schlagerissimo show but the Radio Blue Star SP promised to forward any mail sent to P.O.Box 1104, 4001 BC Zwolle in Holland to the REI QTH.

**EUROPE-41** is a relatively new station having some sort of connection with one or a few FRS SW free radio projects. Signals emanate from Italy (7). Tests on 7480 kHz were heard late April during weekdays and in the weekend. Early May tests continued on 7480 kHz. In the past few weeks the station has been heard on 7465 kHz. Email: [7480@vsnl.it](mailto:7480@vsnl.it) Mailing address: P.O.Box 520112, D-44207 Dortmund, Germany.

Sun March 21st 1999 **RECH & VOTN** (3) carried out a joint broadcast within the 41 mB. Trm took place on 7474 kHz. Nevertheless the very powerful signal caused unwanted and unforeseen interference to Radio Beaulieu being active on 7480 kHz. As a result the freq was shifted downwards to 7467. A good example of ready help! The bug 800W tx was used and it must be said: apart from the strength the modulation quality was absolutely excellent! Well done boys. Sun May 30th RECH & VOTN did another joint show, this time on 7483. Also this broadcast was carried out with the 'big' rig, though response on this broadcast was rather disappointing according to the RECH OP. For the time being he will be doing occasional broadcasts on 76 mHz with his 100W tx. Perhaps he returns to 48 metres later this year (read: autumn). Some positive news: April 18th RECH tested on 6242 an unusual type of modulation method. Most stations on SW use the audio & screen method, the RECH OP now used phase modulation. Sun May 16th RECH tested on 11490 kHz within the 26 mB. This was a very successful test as a report was received from New Zealand. Comment of RECH's proud OP after 10 years on SW: we've finally been around the world! The Email from NZ contained two attached audio files proving it was really RECH which was being heard at 07.23

UTC. In the night of Sat June 12th to Sun June 13th between 22.00-02.00 UTC RECH carried out another (nightly) test on 11480, this time he received a number of letters from US listeners.

**RADIO FOSHI** is a new South-American SW station only broadcasting on Sundays from 22.00 UTC to 01.00/02.00 UTC. Foshi makes use of a 40W HAM transmitter, a Drake TR4, which is tuned to 6990 kHz AM. Because of problems with this rig, a new 50W one is currently under construction. Some time in July this one will be put into service.

**RADIO FREE LONDON** returned on SW during the 2nd March weekend with tests on 5805 using a new aerial system coming from a new site. Official programming recommenced over the Easter weekend when the station was on air 4 days in a row. Ever since output power on 5805 is upped to approx. 300W. Germany is now much improved during daytime. Lateresting was the introduction of 15 MHz broadcasts. This was announced by the end of April. In the 2nd week of May it was announced the service on 15070 kHz would be on all week rather than weekends only. Early June we received a news bulletin from RFL: "Our planned return to the 19mB has been delayed due to a fault with the transmitter. It won't stay on the air any longer than 20 mins. After almost three weeks of non-stop broadcasting, we have had reports from NZ, Oz, North America (two people of which were listening on portable radios) Canada, Spain, Germany, Finland and Sweden. We do plan a 24 hour 7 day a week service on this channel in the future."

"After being for some time on 15070 kHz in June, the 19 mB is now off the air for a few weeks due to technical problems. Just a week or so ago the following info reached us: "The 15070 transmitter has been repaired and will be tested this weekend and hopefully if everything is working alright, it will remain on the air all week. This service is aimed at listeners outside of the UK and Europe and it has been a success with the reports we have had so far. We have been offered a much more powerful transmitter which if it is suitable, we hope to use on the 19mB. The current power is about 70 watts for those of you that have asked. Due to the slowness of our Email service, we will be changing our address in the next month. The new address is: [RFL@England.com](mailto:RFL@England.com) and in order that you still receive our mailouts we are asking you to send a message to the new address so you can be added to the address book. This will save time on line by just adding your address to the new address book, plus clear down our lists of those people that don't respond to our mailouts or broadcasts. We now have another web site, which can be found at: <http://www.rockradio.freezone.co.uk/2737>. This is our third site and it will carry programme information and the latest RFL news. We hope to add pictures of the equipment we are using in the not too distant future. Snail mail: RFL, 101B, Kings Cross Road, London, WC1X 9LP or (4). Email: [RFL@England.com](mailto:RFL@England.com) or <[RadioFreeLondon@usa.net](mailto:RadioFreeLondon@usa.net)>. Check out the RFL web site at: <http://193.63.162.100/100/rfl/rfl.htm> or <<http://www.rockradio.freezone.co.uk/>>."

- 1 = P.O.Box 220342/D-42373 WUPPERTAL/G Germany
- 2 = 14 Stone Row/ COLERAINE/ Co. Londonderry/ BT52 1EP/ Northern Ireland
- 3 = P.O.Box 663, 7900 AR HOOGEVEN, the Netherlands
- 4 = P.O.Box 130/ 92504 RUEIL Cedex/ France
- 5 = 12 Dorman Rd/ PRESTON/ Lancs PR2 6AS/ England
- 7 = P.O.Box 386/ 5900 AJ VENLO/ the Netherlands
- 8 = Box 293/ Merlin Ontario N0P 1W0/ Canada
- 10 = SRS/ Osra Porten 29/ 442 54 YTTREBY/ Sweden

Some people who heard a **RADIO GALAXY** on April Fool's Day on 76 mHz 3905 kHz perhaps be confused with another Dutch Galaxy being noted January 31st. The "new" UK-based Galaxy is operated by the Radio Blackhead OP making use of a 20W tx. Trms are coming from a mobile site using an inverter for the HT of the 807 valve. Email add is: [galaxy99@hotmail.com](mailto:galaxy99@hotmail.com). May 16th saw Galaxy on 6205 and 6260 kHz but also during other occasions the station was active. The Dutch **RADIO GALAXY** was heard on 6239 April 30th, a national holiday in the Netherlands. Address remains Box 343 in 6900 AH Zevenaar, the Netherlands.

**RADIO GERONIMO's** Chris Watson informs that he will be doing irregular tests within 31 mB (9350-9400 kHz) every few weeks from 10.12 UTC to 14.17 UTC. The ID will be either EMR or Geronimo. Other stations may join this Summer. June 6th Radio Geronimo was active on 6210 kHz providing weak reception on the European continent. The broadcast was carried out from a mobile site. No address available.

**GROOVE FM** which was heard SW March 21st on 6985 & 7057 kHz. Groove FM is a high power FM pirate operating during weekends in the Birmingham area, covering most of the Midlands. The station announced the following Email address: [groovefm@yahoo.com](mailto:groovefm@yahoo.com). Website is at: <http://www.groovefm.com>. April 17th/18th Groove FM was noted on 6935 but also during many other occasions in the weekends.



**GROOVY GRANNY & SKYWAVE** are two new UK-based stations carrying out tests in March and April and can be contacted via P.O. Box 520112 in 44207 Dortmund, Germany.

**JAN JETIS** is a Dutch station being active on 76 metres. Add is P.O. Box 18, 7204AC Dordrecht, The Netherlands. Email: <[jan.jetis@expower.de](mailto:jan.jetis@expower.de)>. Website: <[listen.to/radijoe](http://listen.to/radijoe)>.

**RADIO JOYSTICK** can be reached by Email: <[chaps@joystick.nl](mailto:chaps@joystick.nl)>. Sunday May 2nd JOY was heard on 7400 via Radio Pandora's site. Sunday August 22nd JOY will be relayed via RFL a whole day. Only use this address: P.O. Box 1006112 in D-54506 Muthenheim Rühr in Germany. German **RADIO LAGUNA** has a new address: P.O. Box 5, 8100 AA Raalte, Holland.

Sat evening June 19th **LASER 558 TAPES** were aired on 6400 kHz. Which station was responsible? Signal was fair.

**RADIO MARABU** celebrated its 15th birthday with special broadcasts April 16th, 17th & 18th. Also in May and June Marabu was heard a number of times with fair signals on 6210 kHz. Congratulations to the crew members for being 15 years on SW with a real alternative in music!

**MOZART RADIO** made its debut transmission Easter Sunday. Signal strength on 6241 was rather poor, mod was too low. As its name suggests, classical music was played. On the same frequency that same day also Radio Bobby using the (1) address.

Sat April 17th saw German **STUDIO NIGHTLIGHT** on 6307 kHz in the early evening hours. Add is P.O. Box 520112 in 44207 Dortmund, Germany. Email: <[studio@nightlight.fm](mailto:studio@nightlight.fm)>.

German **RADIO NORDSEE** got an unwanted visit from the German authorities. April 3th two so-called *Regierungsbevollmächtigte für Telekommunikation und Post* accompanied by two local police men visited Mike Anderson who was in the middle of a marathon live broadcast. RNI commenced broadcasts earlier that day at 10.00 CEST on 6210.

According to Mike the authorities in Düsseldorf were wowed by their colleagues in Konstanz. Salient detail: none of the authorities had ever heard of RNI. At 16.41 CEST, not long before closing down, RNI went off the air. Mike Anderson emphasized that the authorities acted very friendly and after saying goodbye to his listeners the SW rig was switched off. The SW rig and separate modulator unit were confiscated and in addition an FM rig was confiscated too, this rig was running parallel on 101.4 MHz. Luckily no studio equipment was taken away. RNI will be continuing, at present time the confiscated equipment will be returned but before that happens Mike will have to face a prosecution. Illegal broadcasts aren't a criminal offence but one should realize penalties will be substantial (in excess of DM 1500 !!). Sun May 2nd Nordsee returned on 6211 via an unknown relay-station. Unfortunately signal strength was not as good as those times Nordsee used its own tx.

Confusing: another **RADIO NORDSEE** was heard testing on Sun April 11th on 6206 and 6211 kHz. Addressed was P.O. Box 2209 in D-77612 Offenburg in Germany.

**OFFSHORE 98** was heard over the Easter weekend on 6210 kHz announcing P.O. Box 2209, D-77612 Offenburg in Germany. For more news, see the Offshore Section.

**RADIO PALMARIS** is a German independent radio station that is active via Radio TRICONT which on its turn leaves airtime from the IRRS. Radio Tricont is a network of left-wing (political coloured) German radio stations. Email: <[info@tricont.org](mailto:info@tricont.org)>. A number of German political stations will be heard within the Tricont hours via the IRRS. Mind you: these stations are not pirate!

**RADIO PANAMA** is a brandnew German station making use of the SWRS facilities. A dist of 700 mic was heard. Add: P.O. Box 520112 in D-44207 Dortmund, Germany.

**RADIO PANDORA** was mentioned a number of times on 7400 kHz. May 16th Pandora was on 6244. Add is (10).

On April 16th saw PRSQ: **PIRATE RADIO STATION with QUALITY** on 6270 & 6275 kHz using a 20W rig. The following evening the station was heard on 6275 & 6280. Sun April 18th 6265 & 6275 were in use. Also the next weekend tests were heard on various 48 mb frags. Email add is <[PRSQ@hotmail.com](mailto:PRSQ@hotmail.com)>. <[Q103@radio.nl](mailto:Q103@radio.nl)>. The station's homepage: <[members.aon.nl/q103/](http://members.aon.nl/q103/)>.

**Q103** (10) was heard testing on 103300 on Sun April 11th. IDs in SW, En and I were given. That same day 6975U was also in use with jazz music between 09.00-11.43 UTC. May 16th 1999 Q103 was noted on 6975U, 17955U and 103300. <[Q103@radio.nl](mailto:Q103@radio.nl)>. The station's homepage: <[members.aon.nl/q103/](http://members.aon.nl/q103/)>.

**SKYLARK** is a new German station which can be contacted via an Email address <[Skylark@bbsmail.com](mailto:Skylark@bbsmail.com)>.

**SOUND WAVE RADIO** can be heard quite regularly on 6940 kHz Saturdays. Add is P.O. Box 6215, Dublin 9, Republic of Ireland.

**STUDIO NIGHTLIGHT** tested with a 50W rig Sunday June 13th between 10-11 UTC on 17400 kHz. Address??

SWRS tested in the last week of April on 7480 kHz. On 76 metres 3935 & 3905 is in use and in addition 11470U within the 26mhz, the station's main dist. A whole bunch of stations are to be heard via the different outlets (mainly 11470). Several new stations have joined in the past 3 months.

One of them is Bradford Community Broadcasting with the address: BCB, 2 Forster Square, Bradford BD1 1DQ, England. SWRS can be reached via c/o Play DX, Via Davanzati 8, IT-20158 Milano, Italy, or by Email: <[aw@bca.net](mailto:aw@bca.net)>. Homepage: <[www.bca.net](http://www.bca.net)>.

**RADIO TORENAVAL** came up with another original joke on April Fool's Day. The station claimed to be broadcasting digitally on 3912 kHz. Of course this was not true... Or was it... ha ha? Anyway, RNI is one of Holland's most active stations on 48 metres. Bank Holiday Monday May 3rd saw a 120W test on 6280 kHz. June 6th RNI was heard on 6206/7501 kHz. The use of the latter freq seems to be a bit of a mystery... Add is P.O. Box 90, 7018 ZH Zeeland.

**VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** (3) tested on 6234 kHz in the early evening of on Sunday May 23rd. Signal strength was good. The day before VOTN was spotted on 6279 kHz at 18.30 UTC, also with a loud signal. Power seems to be 100W. Email: <[votn@fremail.nl](mailto:votn@fremail.nl)>.

**RADIO WAVES INT.** (4) was heard a number of times on good old 11401 kHz. April 4th/5th Easter Monday and May 2nd.

**RADIO WOODRUFF** can be reached via <[Woodruff52@hotmail.com](mailto:Woodruff52@hotmail.com)>. Seafmail add is P.O. Box 520112 in D-44207 Dortmund, Germany.

## OFFSHORE NEWS

### RADIO CAROLINE

The above title does not cover the entire amount of news to be read in this section of the FRS Newsletter. Radio Caroline is broadcasting via satellite but to now and then occasional RSLs are being arranged. As Caroline is known as the world's most famous Offshore broadcaster, we keep on putting Caroline news in the Offshore News section. Just to let you know...

Let's start with the Caroline news covering the period late March - late June. Mid March, after Internet teamed up with Radio Caroline to introduce a new weekly programme: *The Web Zone* - which highlights the best and worst of the Internet. The new 5 minute programme airs on Caroline each Saturday evening at 20.30 CEST, and is presented by Newtville officer Steve Conway. As well as looking at the latest developments on the net, the show will highlight one useful website, one wacky website, and one "bad" website each week. Each Sunday Steve Conway presents the Radio Zone, a news intermezzo with interesting radio news. This item is part of Steve's afternoon drive. Radio Caroline are looking for former presenters with Caroline or any of the other offshore stations to fill their Saturday 1700-1900 guest slot on an occasional basis. On March 27th Charlie Wolf presented a show for Radio Caroline from the Madhouse studios. You can read an exclusive report about this evening and look at some photographs at this site: <[members.aon.nl/PeMe/formentum99\\_1.htm](http://members.aon.nl/PeMe/formentum99_1.htm)>. It's run by German radio enthusiast Peter Messinghoff. By the way: this is the first story in Peter's summer series for 1999, the next one to come is about the new studio of MNO (see also News from around the World) - but it will still be a little while before this is ready.

Over the Easter weekend starting on Sunday April 3rd 1999 01.00 till Sunday April 4th 22.00 CEST Radio Caroline celebrated its 35th birthday with a total of 44 hours non-stop programmes. As all time rock top 500 was broadcasted on the Astra 1c. Every hour on top of the hour extracts from the Caroline archives were played. A great weekend with great radio! Several DJs were involved. Among them Johnny Lawrie, Nigel Harris, David Foster, Steve Conway, Jerry Wright, Graham L. Hall and Jeff Rogers. Jeff is a newcomer, he used to work for stations such as Radio 1 and South East Sounds. For those interested in off air recordings: FRS Sales Productions offers a total of 13 hours in excellent audio quality covering the Easter 1999 weekend. During the first May weekend Caroline was off air. May 1st a new block of autumn started but the Astra organisation were not informed by the person running the studios where the pots are coming from. This should have been done 10 days in advance. Bad luck for Caroline, it was not their fault.

Caroline Country is the name of a new programme which was first broadcasted May 15th. It is presented by Graham L. Hall each Saturday 19.00-21.00 CEST. Two weeks later on the 29th of May Caroline's weekly schedule started one hour earlier at 09.00 CEST. As the same time another new show started in Dutch presented by Sigge Brouwer. It must be ages ago since Caroline carried regular Dutch shows.

In the mean time Mark Stafford is appointed Head of Music making him responsible for programming the musical output during the satellite weekend programming. Mark also did a great job over the Easter weekend organising a lot of things. Of course most people know him from EKK and ...

Nearly Caroline had one of the Caroline legends back for a show early this year as Roger Day was scheduled to appear but pulled out at the last minute due to a problem. Caroline is hoping to re-arrange it soon. As you read this, the Ross Revenge is anchored in Southend. The ship left at mooring in Queensborough by the end of May heading for Chatham. A group of volunteers will be carrying out work on the hull. Following this job, the ship will be heading for a 16 week stay at the Southend pier. The ship will be moored at the head of the 2 km long pier. Annually 300,000 tourists visit the seaside resort. A special train will carry tourists to the Ross Revenge. In August Caroline will be putting out AM pps from the Ross Revenge



broadcasting from the pier. The aim is to cover both Aug 14th & Aug 19th (which will be the 10th anniversary of the raid). No details of the production team are set yet. The weekends will probably be rebroadcasts of the Astra service. The only problem could be that the RNLi RSL will be on the air only 10 miles away at the same time and the Radio Authority may not like that. Brian Martin, Martin Fisher & Paul McLaren have now become regular presenters. Brian & Martin are of course well known. But Paul was an engineer in the Mi Amigo days and recently worked for Mellow 1557 and is now also on Midway FM. An interesting new feature on Sundays is called 'The Vinyl Vault'. It's part of Mark Stafford's late afternoon/evening slot from 16.00-20.00 UTC. It features listeners' suggestions of their favourite 'forgotten classics' from the days of vinyl 45's. Say, 1966 to 1985. Very rare songs are being played by Mark. The item is at 16.30 and 18.30 UTC. Musical suggestions should be sent to the following Email address: <rlf@radio.london.co.uk>. Caroline's website: <www.radio.london.co.uk>

#### OFFSHORE NOSTALGIA

The Summer of 1999 will certainly appeal to offshore enthusiasts' imagination. August 31st 1999 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Dutch version of the M.O.A. The Treaty of Strasbourg made an end on Radio Veronica's broadcasts from the MV Noordzee (since 1960) and Radio Northsea's broadcasts emanating from that colourful ship, the Mebo II. Also Radio Atlantic ceased broadcasting August 1974. The MV Mi Amigo left its moorings heading for the English South-East coast, Radio Caroline and Mi Amigo continued. The end of the popular Dutch offshore stations had great impact on Dutch population. And after 25 years the names Veronica and Northsea are still very familiar names in Dutch radio land. Noordzee FM is more or less a legal continuation from its famous offshore brother but music-wise the two have very little in common. Veronica FM is like Noordzee FM: a legal commercial radio station but there are hardly any links with its former offshore brother. To celebrate this 25th anniversary a number of events will be organised. But not only in the Netherlands. The FRS Newsletter reports...

#### RADIO NORTHEAST INTERNATIONAL TO RETURN

Since April we received 4 press releases from TTS-Mediaspot about a 25 day RSL from R.N.I.

"August 1999 sees the return of Radio Northsea International. The Clacton-on-Sea branch of the RNLi (Royal National Lifeboat Institution, lifetime volunteer lifeboat service) are set to revive this old offshore radio station in celebration of the RNLi's 175th anniversary. A ship will be moored two miles from the Essex coastline close to Holland-on-Sea and broadcasting on 190 metres medium wave 1575 kHz using a Radio Authority licence. The signal should give good coverage of the Teaming peninsula and parts of the East Coast; programmes will be broadcast 24 hours a day using some of the former Disc Jockeys of the original RNLi. The aim of the project is to raise money for the RNLi in its anniversary year and what better way than having our very own floating radio station. The sound of RNLi in 1999 will be that of the summer of 1970 when the original ship, The Mebo II, was anchored off Clacton-on-Sea, together with the music, commercials and presentation style of that era. Following careful research we intend to sound just like the original station did back then. It will be the event of the summer. So revive summer 1970 again in summer 1999."

May 17th we received press release #2. Here's a summary: "Work has begun on Light Vessel Number 18 in Harwich Harbour in time for the launch and return of Radio Northsea International. Much of the old machinery done in the engine room is once again functioning, and three out of the four onboard generators are working once again thanks to the hard work of the former Trinity House man Mick Catchpole from Clacton, and ex RN engineer Dick Collier, a Colchester man. Several volunteers along with the environmental task force have cleared all the cobwebs on board. We still need more volunteers for the project especially a qualified painter and chief engineer. We also need several litres of primer and paint to paint the vessel. We have already obtained more supplies of paint donated by a well-known marine paint company, but more is needed. If you can help or would like to sponsor this summer's event, call the Event Organiser, Paul Graham on 01253 672531."

June 3rd we received press release #3. Here's a summary:

"Several former Radio Northsea International DJs have pledged their support to the return of RNLi in August along with a former Radio One man, Alan West, Dave Rogers, and Martin Kayne: are three former RNLi DJs. Alan West was with the station on its opening day in February 1970. All three will be staying on board the new RNLi ship this summer. Former Radio One DJ and TV personality Mike Read will also be joining the ship for a week from Monday 16th August. Mike has revealed to the station reporter, Paul Graham, his love for the former offshore stations and that he had always wanted to work on a radio ship. Several former Caroline DJs from various decades will also be heard on RNLi. Some of these include Kevin Turner, Dennis Jaxon, Phil Mitchell and some of the now defunct Mellow Radio presenters: Paul McLaren and Colin Lamb, also current Midway FM programme director Bob Leroi is set to join the crew."

June 2nd we received press release #4 Here's a summary:

"Light Vessel Number 18, the new radio ship for this coming summer's

Radio Northsea International revival broadcast, is nearly complete. Painting work has begun on the hull and when finished she will be bright red once again. Other painting work will also take place, in particular the helipad will be painted green, and have the RNLi name added to it, and Wilton and Son, the world famous jam makers of Tiptrix, will have their logo on the bow of both sides of the vessel. Paul Graham, Event Organiser, said "I am delighted at the speed and quality of all the work so far undertaken, much of it by the local environment agencies New Start scheme. The youngsters and the not so young who have worked on board have been marvellous". He continued, "We are set to leave for moorings off Holland-on-Sea by the end of July. We shall start broadcasting at one minute past midnight on Tuesday 3rd August on 1575 kHz 190 metres medium wave with all night test transmissions. Alan West will re-launch RNLi at 6 a.m. on the Tuesday morning with the first show; he was on air on day one with the original RNLi in 1970. The ship will remain equipped after the month long broadcast comes to an end, she will be back on air a few months later, probably from Harwich to welcome in the new century. Website: <www.bitternet.com/~ru>.

#### THE RETURN OF RADIO SCOTLAND

Following the successful temporary come-back of Big L Radio London in 1997 and the planned return of RNLi this Summer, new plans are being made for a return of Radio Scotland. RSW is the name of the organisation planning this event. Involved is Jack McLaughlin who used to be a popular jock in the days The MV Comet was putting out pps on 242 metres AM. There will be a link to the pps which were aired between 1965 and 1967 when Radio Scotland was an offshore station. Intention is to run a webradio, an RSL, and perhaps also satellite broadcasts. The British Radio Authority have issued a license to a Harlow (Essex) based organisation planning to broadcast for 28 days under the name Swinging Radio England. Possibly this is the same "club" who was putting out (unprofessional) pps under the name Radio London last Summer.

#### REUNION

In the late Summer former employees of the offshore radio station Radio Veronica will be invited to take part in a reunion organised in Leeuwarden. In the last week of August many Dutch radio stations will be broadcasting a 60 minute tribute recommending the Dutch offshore stations. The CD will contain many rare extracts coming from Haas Koot's archive. The programme is produced by Ad Bouman, former Veronica studio engineer. Over a year ago Ad was the last employee who was left over from the offshore period working for Veronica in the 90s. All these festivities are organised because of the 25th anniversary of the Dutch version of the M.O.A. August 31st 1974 is in the Netherlands also known as 'The Day the Music Died'.

#### RADIO MI AMIGO/RADIO SYD SITES

Haas Koot announced that a new site is available containing info from Radio Mi Amigo. Audio files will be soon added (but could already be available in the mean time): <www.scoo.rn.nl/~soundscapes/Volume02/illegaldecoort/Mi\_Amigo.html>. Later this year a brandnew book covering the history of Radio Mi Amigo will be published.

Two chapters of the book - the exciting period August - September 1974 - have been published on the RadioVista site: <www.radiovista.com>.

Haas Koot and a companion have also opened a new site with many, partly very rare photographs on the history of Sweden's Radio Syd. You'll find them as follows: <www.scoo.rn.nl/~Soundscapes/>. When you've got there you'll go to the index 99-00. There you'll find some new stories, including one with the title 'Rare pictures from Radio's past'. Click there. First you'll find three pages with rare Mercar photographs and next you will find four pages with Radio Syd photographs. Peter Messingförl's site is also highly recommended to all offshore radio freaks! Visit one of these sites: <www.messingförl.se/xx> or <www.radiolink.net/offshore/index>. You can email Peter via <petr.messingförl@telia.se>. A 3rd site is to be read within the Caroline news section!

#### EUROAD99

The following info was received from CEM: "1999 sees France Radio Club and Offshore Echo's celebrate their 25th anniversary. We'll also be celebrating the 25th anniversary of Radio Mi Amigo, with a special event being held in Calais on Saturday 3rd July 1999. Euroad99 takes in both anniversaries with special guests from Radio Mi Amigo, videos, the Offshore Echo's boutique and a champagne dance. The venue for Euroad99 is the terminal restaurant and meeting rooms, within the Calais car ferry terminal complex. The event starts at 2.00pm local time and during the afternoon offshore radio videos will be showing and special guests will be in attendance. There is a bar and self-service restaurant, as well as the Offshore Echo's Boutique selling a wide range of Offshore Echo's merchandise. Guests include: Norman Barrington who joined Radio Caroline in the 70s as Norman Barrington Smythe, going on to Radio's Scagell and Mi Amigo, Norman, now without the Scagell, as an avid jangle collector; Brian Anderson, Offshore on Radio's Caroline, Scagell, Mi Amigo and RNLi. On former ground on Radio Tees, Moray Firth and more recently in China, Marc Jacobs, former Mi Amigo deputy (always live aboard the ship) is also said to be attending the meeting. Other guests to be announced. For bookings and further information contact: Fax/phone 0181 840 8580/ Email <



offshore\_echoes@hotmail.com > or write to Post Offshore Echo's, PO Box 1514, London W7 2LL.

### LORD SUTCH PASSES AWAY

Wednesday June 15th 58 year old David Sutch died in his house in Harlow, North West London. His 41 year old girlfriend Yvonne Elbow found his body and warned the local police. David, who fell down for already a few years, had lung cancer. David became known within the radio world in 1964 when he sailed on a ship on the Thames with his group The Savages including Jack Bruce and Keith Moon. Goal was to sail to Shivering Sands, where he started his own radio station managed by his manager Reginald Calvert. Name of the station was Radio Sutch playing music not to be heard on other stations. Soon Radio Sutch was bought by Mr. Calvert and he renamed it into Radio City. David Sutch among radio enthusiasts better known as Screaming Lord Sutch—was also within politics. In 1963 he founded the Monster Loony Party. A very colourful, perhaps a bit of a weird person from radio and politics is no more among us. Long live David 'Screaming Lord' Sutch. A number of web sites: Lord David Edward Sutch: <[www.sutch.com/cephane/?people&id=1012](http://www.sutch.com/cephane/?people&id=1012)>, his musical career: <[www.allmusic.com/artist?id=nm0004511](http://www.allmusic.com/artist?id=nm0004511)>, The Radio Sutch Story: <[freemove.virginia.net/line/donut/orlando/sutch\\_story.htm](http://freemove.virginia.net/line/donut/orlando/sutch_story.htm)>.

Bob Stewart, former 6th Caribbea deputy later working on Radio Luxembourg and Capital Gold, is seriously ill. Since early this year he is suffering from cancer. Following successful surgery, he once again got breathing problems. He was taken to hospital. Bob is currently living in his native country Canada. We wish him all the luck, strength and courage he may need!!

Meanwhile another former Caroline (and R.N.I.) jock, Chris Carey, was sentenced to four years imprisonment. He was selling illegal RikkyB "smart cards". January 17th Carey was picked up by New Zealand police following his escape from the "Ford Open" jail in Sussex August 11th 1998.

### OFFSHORE 98

Most of you will remember the coverage we gave to an unique one-off offshore project that would be taking place October 1998. Due to bad weather the project had to be cancelled, at least for the time being. Intention was to do a second attempt in 1999. During the Easter weekend Offshore 98 was on air. The press release we received April 6th spoke for itself...

"The radio project postponed last year now worked on schedule over the 1999 Easter weekend. A 30 m long fishing vessel left a main German harbour on Friday morning, April 2nd. The aerials were installed while on the high sea. The vessel cruised under motor or on drift the whole time in international waters west of Heligoland. Test transmissions started the same day around 16:00 UTC with testpilot jingles. Also first tests on 279 kHz were carried out. On Saturday, the shortwave transmitter, tuned to 6210, was switched on at 04:45 with the opening program starting at 05:00. The mediumwave transmitter on 1566 kHz started at 07:00 and took programming from 08:00 onwards. The longwave transmitter began broadcasting around 08:30. Simultaneous broadcasting on the three frequencies went on until Sunday evening with the close-down of the stations at 23:00. There were some interruptions of the transmissions due to improvements and maintenance work on the aerials. Every expert will confirm, that it is quite a challenge to operate three transmitters with aerials from a relatively small vessel under conditions never tested before. The weather conditions were good, so in addition to taped programmes, live broadcasts from the studio were done. As announced before, Offshore 98 was planned and carried out as a single event for a non-commercial radio station truly operated from the international waters of the Northsea. Only the announced ship name was invented by ourselves. Photos will be published later this year. The crew members and a number of friends of the offshore radio stations of the past raised the money for this event. On Monday, the crew returned back on shore. Everyone of us enjoyed the challenge we took, as a great experience. During the weekend on board the general feeling was good and the cooperation of the people taking watches around the clock in 4-hour shifts, was good." Most of the reports were for the SW outlet covering wide areas. Nevertheless it's a great achievement broadcasting simultaneously on three frequencies from a ship-based station! According to Martin van de Ven, the Offshore 98 broadcasts during the Easter 1999 weekend brought a few offshore radio firms: for the first time an offshore radio station broadcast off the coast of Germany (from the international waters west of the Isle of Heligoland), for the first time a longwave transmitter was used, for the first time an offshore radio station was planned and realised as a one weekend-only (ad-venture) set up by nostalgic radio freaks, for the first time the radio ship being used didn't drop an anchor, but sailed the lake. Visit <[www.offshore-radio.de/en](http://www.offshore-radio.de/en)>, <<http://www.offshore-radio.de>> or <[www.offshore-radio.de](http://www.offshore-radio.de)> for interviews, colour pictures, real radioaudiochecks of the project.

### It was 15 years ago

The fifteenth anniversary of LASER 55R's sign-on was this May 24th. The influential offshore station had hundreds of listeners and helped change the face of British radio. Its star, and famed "Euroseize" rebel, CHARLIE WOLF, spoke exclusively about the upcoming event to TTS Mediapro.

### Q: Do you remember the sign-on day?

A: No, actually I was one of the smart ones. I joined about 3 months after it started — missing the boat trip and balloon ascents and all of that. I then left about three months before the station came into port. I do remember the spirit of 15 years ago. They were incredible times and I don't think I will ever do radio that comes close to later. It's not just the music we played, or the millions of listeners. It was a special kind of spirit which I really felt that I was communicating, inspiring, and being a friend to my listeners.

### Q: What made Laser 55R so special?

A: We helped change the face of British radio for the better. I've heard that not just from other people who were on British radio at the time, but also from Johnny Beerting, then the controller of Radio One who told me that Laser made them rethink how Radio One did things. We also played great music — in some ways we broke the rules, even by American standards, making us as many choices as we did on what was a Top 40 station. We played all the new romantic stuff of the time — a lot of which was featured on the Venus Hustlers to watch recently, but also we really rocked with great songs from The Who, The Kinks and all the greats.

### Q: How did your recent show on Radio Caroline go?

A: It was really fun, and a much needed boost. I let my hair down and chose all the music — I hope I did a good job. It won't be the same as being on the Communicator, but the spirit was there.

### Q: Are there any plans for Laser's anniversary?

A: Nothing yet, but I am open to suggestions! Radio Caroline have been speaking to me about a commemorative show, and it would be nice to do something special with a few surprises. One idea floating around is to do a couple of special Laser Lover Roadshows in either Kent or Essex, but I would love to hear what the fans think! Still I'd keep that weekend free if I were you!!! Charlie Wolf can be e-mailed at: <[wolf@mediapro.co.uk](mailto:wolf@mediapro.co.uk)>. Web site: <[www.mediapro.co.uk](http://www.mediapro.co.uk)>.

Some extra news which reached us from TTS-Medipro June 6th: Former Laser 55R and Atlantic 252 star, Charlie Wolf, has signed for Stockport-based (Cheshire, Greater Manchester area) Signal FM. He will be taking the mid morning slot (10am - 2pm) daily from Monday 7th June 1999. Signal FM is broadcasting on 104.9 and 96.4 FM. Charlie told TTS-Medipro this evening that he is delighted to be working in this particular area of the country and looks forward to great radio days ahead.

## MADE IN HOLLAND

### MARCH

#### High debate...

Within the Dutch Government a fierce disagreement has raised regarding the future of commercial radio. Next year all FM frequencies will be divided again between national public and commercial stations. The 5 public stations will get the same amount of frequencies as their commercial counterparts in total. The dispute arose on two issues: the conditions to be made to the commercial stations and the range of the commercial frequency packages. The initial plan was to knock down the packages to the highest bidders. But some members of the Government now want to make extra conditions concerning the content of the programmes. Otherwise they fear most commercial stations will become Sky Radio look-alikes: not stop popular music for the masses. No surprise the liberal members of the Government think the policy of the stations is the privilege of the owners themselves. Most probably this discussion will result in setting apart one of the commercial packages for a new station. Another way of protecting the public stations is the limited range of the packages. A plan has been made public, suggesting the commercial frequencies will be assembled to ten packages with a individual coverage of 50%. (Mark the public stations all have a 100% coverage). Again the liberal party asks for a 60% coverage at least, to enable real competition on the radio market.

#### The forgotten stations

Also the local public radio stations are taking part in this debate. They fear they will be 'forgotten' in the new assignment procedure. These stations are merely broadcasting between 104.9 and 108.0 MHz in mono. They have no part of the deal because of the suggested shortage of frequencies in the FM band. However, recently it appeared there are far more frequencies available than ever thought or said. The local public stations demand their part of the cake, before all attractive frequencies will go to commercial stations.

#### Delta 171 debate

Parliament has agreed on the building of two 1200 ft masts in the Northsea, some 20 miles off the Dutch coast. However in future there has to be a procedure regarding the environmental consequences of such plans. At this very moment only dangers for the shipping can be considered. Now legislation has to be made. But because such legislation doesn't exist yet, nothing can be done against the location of Radio Delta's masts in the North sea. It is expected that the building of these long wave aerial masts will start early June.

#### APRIL

#### JFK almost finished



JFK Radio (broadcasting 'quality pop and r'n'b') is doing badly. Its owner (Wegener Arcand) is considering the closure or sale of the station. Recent changes in format and the start of FM transmissions haven't resulted in an increase of marketshare.

#### Caroline announces start

The Dutch Radio Caroline announces the start of transmission on May 5th. Frequencies will be 1584 and 1602 AM. Caroline got the 1584 outlet from Radio Goodland, which isn't interested in that frequency anymore. Caroline is aiming at a male - target group aging between 35 - 50 years. The format will be Adult Alternative.

#### MAY

##### Caroline starts in style

May 5th Radio Caroline started test transmissions. However, we haven't heard any tests yet, nor have we spoken to anyone who heard anything. According to information from the organisation there have been some problems, which remind us very much of the 'watery' Caroline. Strong winds caused problems with the construction of the aerial mast. The aerial is now located some 20 m above the ground instead of the planned 45 m. Above that the transmitter has to be delivered yet. This 1 kW transmitter has been ordered in the States. The 20 Watt relay antenna transmitter delivered only a mere 2 Watts, until some adjustments were made late in the afternoon. Early that evening the transmissions were finished because of rain and oversteering. Tests were emanating from Fort Lincum situated in the Eastern part of the city of Utrecht (centre part of the Netherlands). The station hopes to cover the whole of the so-called Dutch Randstad (urban area) with the 1 kW tx connected to the 45 metre high antenna tower. It will be 1584 kHz. Caroline hopes to add a second AM outlet on 1602 kHz AM. This site is situated in the very Northern part of the Netherlands. Leeuwarden. Email: <radio@caroline.nl>. Website (under construction): <www.radioonline.nl>. Address: P.O. Box 11122, 3505 BC Utrecht. Tel.: +31-302413550.

##### Poor results regional stations

The regional public broadcasters are doing badly financially spoken. Although in 1997 already 4 out of the total of 11 stations made losses, in 1998 only 2 stations had a positive result. Increasing costs and increasing income out of commercials are responsible for this dramatic situation. Competition from the new commercial regional stations will worsen these results even more.

#### JUNE

##### 1332 KHZ tests

Since June 11th regular tests are carried out on 1332 kHz. The Dutch Nozema (in control of all tx's) is doing these tests to acquire info about the characteristics of a certain type of medium wave aerial, the T antenna. The EMRP is approx. 150 W and the site is near Lopik in the central part of the Netherlands. 1332 kHz is the official frequency for Today FM. Because the tests were without speech, it led to speculation. Several regional stations have been awarded AM freqs but up till now Radio Caroline is the only station who plans AM txms (so much about). Future 1332 kHz txms may be aired with 2.2 kW. Nozema: <www.nozema.nl>.

##### HOFSTAD RADIO IS BACK

In preparation of taking to the air as a commercial regional radio station, De Haque based Hofstad Radio can be heard on 91.0 MHz FM stereo. Tests started June 14th and will continue till August 7th. The antenna is erected at a height of no less than 85 metres resulting in a very good reception in the wider neighbourhood area. Classic hits & information are put out by the legendary former pmc. In the early 80s Hofstad Radio was a very professional commercial private which gained an enormous popularity in De Haque and its surroundings. The station used 1 kW Rotel & Schwarz transmitters better known as so-called Harrys. One of the voices to be heard on Hofstad Radio is that of former Mi Ampopock Dick Verheul. Website: <hofstadradio.nl>.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

#### IoMIBC

BY the end of March the Isle of Man Communications Commission has announced that it is intended to grant a long wave licence to the Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company Limited (IoMIBC) subject to the approval of Tywald, the Isle of Man Government's Court of Government. Late April British authorities gave the final green light. The station is expected to broadcast under the call sign 'MusicMan 279' Chief Executive, Paul Rustling and the Chairman of the Board, John Rose-Barnard expressed their great pleasure on hearing the good news. As well as being subject to the approval of Tywald, the station will have to seek planning permission for its proposed transmission site. The award of the long wave licence to Paul Rustling and his team marks the successful conclusion of a 5 year campaign to establish a long wave station on the island. The IoMIBC Broadcasting Company Ltd. must do a £3 million pound investment. The licence will permit the new station to broadcast simultaneously on long wave, satellite and via the internet. One of the features of IoMIBC's application is the use of a new type of broadcast antenna, which will result in

the need for a much smaller transmitter tower than would otherwise be expected. According to sources, the antenna will only be 30 metres high although no less than 500 kW output will be used. Paul Rustling thinks it must be possible to operate with a so-called Crossed Field Antenna (CFA). This construction could result in a 3 dB gain doubling the ERP of a conventional type of aerial. Another advantage that this type of antenna only generates a groundwave and no skywave. That means that interference with any foreign stations making use of 279 will be reduced to a minimum. A disadvantage is that gain is only made in horizontal directions. The antenna is bearing non-directionality. This could result in a less strong signal in the London area. The CFA is recommended by radio amateurs. So far we know one station using a CFA: a Greek 400W station in Sydney, Australia is broadcasting on 1655 kHz as far as we know without problems. The CFA is rarely used apart from... Egypt. Throughout the entire country the CFA is being used. A list interesting piece of news: P Rustling announced that the new long wave station will not be going on air under the name MusicMan 279. The story will be continued....

Website: <www.longwave-radio.com>.

#### Wolfman Jack

Lou Lamb Smith, the widow of the legendary Wolfman Jack, has received an award. Wolfman has now posthumously become a member of the NAB Broadcasting Hall of Fame in which only is a place for programmers or presenters who were significant for the American radio and TV industry. During his 35 year career Wolfman worked for numerous stations including AFRS Worldwide. FRS Goes DX published a tribute to Wolfman Jack (written by Hans Knot) in July 1996. Wolfman Jack died at the age of 57 three years ago on July 2nd 1996. If you are interested in this comprehensive story, then send 1 IRC, US dollar or DM 2.00/£ 2.00 (stamps) to the FRS Newsletter address, see page 1. Interesting website: <www.wolfmanjack.com> / <www.stinky.com/wolfman/wolfman.html>.

#### Problems Merlin Network One

MNO, owned by Media Communications and broadcasting via 21 different SW frequencies and via satellite, is in difficulties. According to reliable sources the 24 hour a day service has been reduced to a mere 5 hours... a week! This measure took effect on Monday May 28th. MNO is the programme department of Merlin Comm. The latter became owner of the British privatised SW txs from the BBC World Service. Eric Willshire who was MNO's programme controller is leaving MNO. His popular show, The Media Zoo, will run till June 30th. For the time being the station will be transmitting round the clock on satellite only. Within a limited period, the SW service would be expanded but only if the different organisations bearing airtime are paying. At this moment you can hear MNO's SW time daily 16.00-17.00 UTC on 6175 kHz via the Skelton tx. Website: <www.mno.co.uk>.

#### Solar FM returns

January 3rd at exactly 22.00 hours E.K.R. ceased broadcasting via satellite. But also Radio Caroline's Sunday Service was forced to leave the satellite airwaves and a third station, Solar FM. Since June 1st Solar FM has returned 24 hours a day. Current txms are via an MTV audio subcarrier on 7.56 MHz, transponder 15. Two former offshore personalities are to be heard on Solar FM. Terry Davis of R.N.I. and Radio Atlantis fame and Greg Bance who worked on R.N.I. under the name Arnold Layne.

#### Digital Technology for Medium Wave Transmitters

Well-known American transmitter manufacturer Commercial Electronics has introduced its broadband PowerStarLine. A medium wave transmitter entirely making use of digital technology. It regards a rig having a capacity of 50 kW. This state-of-the-art unit offers a number of advantages which until recently were only limited to FM transmitters: clarity plus a stable and perfect signal. CEC managed to build this type of transmitter making use of the world wide AES3 digital audio path standard. Users will be able to have better control when it comes to the overall sound thanks to the 'full-digital audio path' technology. Noise is reduced, the signal can be kept stable at a much longer period. CEC's new transmitter consumes less energy than the older valve transmitter and the very efficient digital modulator also uses less energy. The transmitter can always operate on full power, even if one of the 48 amplifiers goes up. CEC is convinced they deliver a transmitter meeting the most modern and necessary demands. CEC offers a wide range of TV, SW, AM/FM transmitters as well as digital audio applications.

#### More Digital (Stereo) AM

Buracom in cooperation with the London illegal station RAM220 is testing a revolutionary Digital AM Stereo system (AMDS). Uptill now results are very promising. The system is simple, reliable and dramatically improves the AM quality. The only 'drawback' is that one needs a computer to decode the MP3 Real Audio off air. More info about this revolutionary technology can be found at these websites: <DaveFSB@aol.com>, <Dave@mj.com>, <demom.co.uk> or <hisscom@iol.com>.

Sources: Hans Knot/FRW, TTS MediaPro, SRS-News, M-Visio, FRSH.

The upcoming issue is out mid September!